

Carter urged to bar engines for Iraq

WASHINGTON, May 22 (R)—Seventy-two members of Congress today urged President Carter to bar shipment of General Electric engines for four frigates being built in Italy for Iraq. Administration officials last week said it had been decided to allow the \$11.2 million sale to go ahead despite protests that Congress and the State Department had not been notified of the sale as required under an anti-terrorism law. The officials acknowledged that a mistake might have been made. Iraq is one of four countries alleged by the State Department to provide support for international terrorism. In a letter made public today the 72 members of Congress, from both the Democratic and Republican parties, said no case had been made that the sale should go forward because of overriding national interests. The letter, initiated by four members of the house foreign affairs committee, said the sale could be construed as acquiescing in terrorism and was unwise in terms of the volatile power politics of the Gulf.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Volume 5, Number 1365

AMMAN, FRIDAY MAY 23, 1980 — RAJAB 9, 1400

Syrian mediator goes to Iran Saturday

DAMASCUS, May 22 (R)—Dr. Adib Daoudy, a Syrian member of the five-man U.N. commission of inquiry on Iran, left for Geneva today for talks with Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim before going on to Tehran. The commission cut short its mission two months ago after 17 days in Tehran investigating Iran's grievances against the deposed Shah because members were unable to see the U.S. hostages there. In a press statement before leaving Damascus, Dr. Daoudy said he had been chosen by Dr. Waldheim as his personal envoy to Iran to discuss completing the commission's mandate. U.N. officials in Tehran said Dr. Daoudy, political adviser to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, would arrive in the Iranian capital early on Saturday morning. A spokesman at the United Nations said Dr. Waldheim will brief Dr. Daoudy in Geneva over the week-end. The spokesman stressed that Dr. Daoudy's assignment was not in the capacity of member of the commission but as a personal envoy of the secretary general. It was not known how long Dr. Daoudy would remain in Iran.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

Regional Briefs

TEHRAN, May 22 (R)—Nine drug traffickers were executed today on the orders of Islamic judge Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, bringing the total of narcotics offenders shot in the past two days to 29. The official Pars News Agency said the nine, all members of an international drug ring, were executed at Tehran's Qasr prison immediately after their two-day trial ended. One was a 78-year-old man, Pars said. Yesterday's execution of 20 drug offenders was the first ordered by Ayatollah Khalkhali since President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr appointed him to head Iran's anti-narcotics strike force earlier this month.

DAMASCUS, May 22 (AP)—Fateh, the largest Palestinian commando group, opened its 14th general congress here today under Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. Mr. Khaled Al Hassan, member of the Fateh central committee said the congress will review "the achievement of the past stage and guidelines for the future." Other sources said organisational, financial, political and military issues were on the agenda of the meeting, held under tight security in a Damascus suburb. 450 delegates representing various Fateh levels and branches in Arab and other countries are participating in the five-to-six day meeting.

ABU DHABI, May 22 (R)—An official committee has found that 35 per cent of the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) population of one million are illegally resident in the country, the semi-official newspaper Al Itihad said today. The paper quoted informed sources as saying that on the basis of this figure and other information on foreigners in the UAE, the committee would recommend to the government tighter immigration controls including coastal patrols by motorboats to stop illegal arrivals. The UAE has already tightened its labour law, giving foreigners working illegally until June 21 to put their papers in order or be deported, as the government grapples with a problem which is worrying all the Gulf states. The majority of foreign workers are Asians, especially Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

TEHRAN, May 22 (R)—A bomb exploded on an oil pipeline in western Iran last night, causing supplies to the small Kermanshah refinery, the official Pars News Agency reported. The explosion occurred 24 kilometres from Nafit-e-Shahr, near Iran's border with Iraq, and started a fire which was quickly extinguished. The Kermanshah refinery, which has a capacity of 18,000 barrels a day, has been cut off several times in recent weeks by incidents including a rocket attack on a pumping station. Iran's oil pipelines have been the target of numerous explosions in recent months, blamed on "Iraqi-backed insurgents and Arab separatists."

TEHRAN, May 22 (R)—The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is ready to look into the plight of 35,000 people deported from Iraq to Iran if the Iranian government requests it, the U.N. Tehran representative said today. Mr. Zuhair Yammin told Reuters he had informed the Iranian foreign ministry of the offer by the Geneva-based high commissioner, Mr. Poul Hartling. Two days ago more than 100 deportees started a sit-in at the U.N. office here demanding that a commission from the world body should come to Tehran to investigate their situation and arrange for their repatriation to Iraq. The protesters claim that almost all the deportees are Iraqi citizens although Baghdad says they are illegal Iranian immigrants. The demonstrators have said they will stay until they receive a reply to their request, but their sit-in has been entirely peaceful.

CAIRO, May 22 (AP)—Egypt's newly appointed foreign minister, Gen. Kamal Hassan Ali, and Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov today discussed the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the pause in the Palestinian autonomy negotiations. The encounter was the first between an Egyptian foreign minister and a Soviet envoy since the end of last year. A foreign ministry spokesman said it was a brief courtesy visit at Mr. Polyakov's request. Gen. Ali was appointed earlier this month. Previously he was minister of defence. "The meeting was interesting and useful," Mr. Polyakov told reporters later. He said the two men had "touched" on the Afghanistan issue and had covered "all kinds of questions" on the Middle East. Soviet-Egyptian relations have at best been icy since 1973 when the Soviet Union refused to deliver additional weapons to Egypt in retaliation for President Anwar Sadat's expulsion of some 15,000 Soviet military advisers from Egypt.

BELGRADE, May 22 (R)—Visiting Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz discussed bilateral relations and international issues with Yugoslav Prime Minister Veselin Djuranovic here today, officials said. Particular attention during the talks was paid to activities and the role of the non-aligned movement in international relations, the officials said. The two men expressed their satisfaction with cooperation between their countries and said they were ready to further strengthen and widen bilateral ties in all fields, according to the officials.

TEHRAN, May 22 (R)—Gunmen last week fired on a car being driven by the bodyguard of former naval commander, Adm. Ahmad Madani, aides of the admiral said today. They said a relative of the bodyguard was slightly injured in the shooting, which occurred eight or nine days ago in central Tehran. Adm. Madani was not in the car or in the vicinity at the time, they added. The identity of the attackers was unknown. Adm. Madani, who gained a reputation as a tough law-and-order enforcer while governor-general of Iran's Khuzestan province last year, was runner-up in January's presidential election. According to Tehran newspapers, he was soundly out-rejected recently after taking on the job of prime minister, but the approach fell through after he demanded a firm definition of his powers.

KHARTOUM, May 22 (R)—Sudan is to boycott the Moscow Olympic Games, the official Sudan News Agency said today. Its Olympic Committee issued a statement yesterday saying Sudan would not take part in the games in protest against Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the agency said. Yesterday, Kuwait said it would participate in the games. The Kuwaiti News Agency quoted Kuwait's Olympic Committee Chairman Sheikh Fahd Ahmad Al Sabah, as saying his country would not follow the U.S.-led boycott of the games because it believed politics should be kept out of sport. Kuwait's neighbour, Saudi Arabia was one of the first to support the boycott.

NICOSIA, May 22 (AP)—Vandals broke into the ancient monastery of Saint Barnabas in the Turkish occupied northern part of Cyprus and stole more than 20 ancient Byzantine icons and crosses, the Turkish Cypriot authorities announced today. A statement by the Turkish Cypriot department of ancient monuments said the Turkish Cypriot police is investigating the theft which was discovered yesterday morning. The monastery, originally founded in 478 A.D., houses the reputed tomb of St. Barnabas, one of the 12 apostles, as well as a priceless copy of the Gospel according to St. Matthew said to be in St. Barnabas' own handwriting. The stolen relics would be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars if sold on the open market.

EEC embargo against Tehran goes into effect

BRUSSELS, May 22 (R)—A European Common Market trade embargo against Iran went into effect today but with a united front broken by Britain's decision not to make the measures retroactive.

Officials said member countries had given their final approval to the embargo agreed by community foreign ministers in Naples last weekend and EEC ambassadors met in regular session today to review the last technical arrangements. Legal and technical experts discussed the sanctions plan yesterday.

Britain was one of the main backers of sanctions aimed at helping U.S. efforts to gain the release of some 50 American hostages in Iran. But Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher dropped last Monday British commitment to a clause backdating a trade embargo on all contracts to last Nov. 4, the day student militants seized the hostages in the U.S. embassy in Tehran.



Herad Hoelzonbein (left) and Fred Schaub, who scored the only goal in Wednesday night's UEFA cup final between Frankfurt and Moenchengladbach, holds the UEFA cup which the Eintracht Frankfurt team won in Frankfurt's stadium. See page 5. (AP wirephoto)

Says flick is 'deeply offensive'

Lord Carrington calls for reconciliation with Saudi Arabia over 'Princess' film

LONDON, May 22 (R)—Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington today said a controversial British television film about the execution of a Saudi princess for adultery was "deeply offensive."

"It was a bad film and I wish it had never been shown," he said in a speech prepared for delivery to the Middle East Association here. He said there had been Saudi distress and anger about the film and added he was sorry for the understandable offence which it had caused to the royal family in Saudi Arabia and other Saudis and Muslims everywhere.

The Saudi authorities tried to stop the film from being shown last month on Britain's independent television network and subsequently in Holland, the United States and elsewhere. In retaliation for its screening, Saudi Arabia asked Britain to withdraw its ambassador from the kingdom.

Today Lord Carrington called for a reconciliation with Saudi Arabia and said Britain would do all it could to bring this about. The film sought to reconstruct the case of Princess Mishaal, executed by firing squad, and her lover, who was beheaded.

Lord Carrington reiterated that the British government could not get into the business of banning this or that film because it did not like it or even because it hurt "our friends."

Algeria raises crude oil price

ALGIERS, May 22 (R)—Algeria today announced an increase in the price of its crude oil by one dollar to \$35.21 a barrel. The official Algerian News Agency said the increase was retroactive to May 16. Algeria produces at present one million barrels a day compared with 1.2 million last year. The increase had been reported last weekend by an authoritative New York trade paper, Petroleum Intelligence Weekly. A general round of price increases by major exporters has taken place since Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter, added two dollars a barrel to its price on May 14.

U.S. conducts nuclear test

WASHINGTON, May 22 (R)—The United States conducted an underground nuclear test today, and said the Soviet Union apparently also carried out a test. The energy department said the explosion in Nevada, the sixth test by the U.S. this year, had a yield of less than 20 kilotons or the equivalent of 20,000 tons of TNT. It said seismic signals recorded by U.S. monitors at 0357 GMT were presumed to have come from a Soviet underground explosion at the Semizlatinsk nuclear test area in Siberia.

British politicians for expressing regret to Saudi Arabia, said the film had cast a cloud over Saudi-British relations, which had been very friendly.

Twenty five per cent of British oil imports come from Saudi Arabia and there are 30,000 Britons working there.

He declared: "We shall be doing all we can to bring about a reconciliation with Saudi Arabia. We may need to ask them to be more understanding about our way of life. We shall certainly need, ourselves, to strive to be more understanding about theirs."

Small turnout for Egypt referendum

CAIRO, May 22 (R)—The turnout was small today in a referendum on the state's political and economic system as a social democratic multi-party system. This is not a major change, since the ban on the formation of political parties was lifted in 1976.

A new article will be added to the constitution on the formation of a consultative assembly, whose function will be advisory to parliament on major issues such as national security and development. Two thirds of the members of this body will be elected in nationwide elections, and the rest will be appointed by the president.

Although the Socialist Labour Party with 34 out of 392 seats in parliament was silent on the referendum, the smaller Socialist Liberal Party (SLP) with only two seats said that polling should take place separately on each issue.

The leftist Unionist Progressive Party called on the people to vote "no" because the referendum package involves "a variety of different issues, some of which contradict one another."

The 1971 constitution enacted one year after President Sadat took office stated that the president could not run for more than two consecutive six-year periods.



Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, in casual safari suit, casts his ballot Thursday in his Nile Delta village of Mit Abul Kom, 90 kilometres northeast of Cairo, to approve constitutional amendments, including one that would enable him to remain in office for life. (AP wirephoto)

Will seek General Assembly session ICO condemns Israel for annexing Jerusalem

ISLAMABAD, May 22 (Agencies)—The Islamic foreign ministers conference today condemned as void a recent Israeli decision formally to annex occupied Jerusalem and proclaim the city the Zionist state's capital.

At the end of their 11th conference here, the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) said they would seek convening an emergency session of the United Nations General Assembly if, before the end of July, Israel opted not to rescind its annexation decision.

They also decided to hold a meeting within three months to evaluate the situation vis-a-vis the Jerusalem issue.

The conference also approved a Jordanian move to condemn Israel's expulsion of the mayors of the occupied towns of Hebron and Halhoul and the Qadi of Hebron. They also condemned Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territories.

The ministers also supported a Jordanian proposal to transfer the World Health Organisation's regional headquarters from Alexandria to Amman.

On Afghanistan, the foreign ministers expressed their "deep concern at the continued Soviet military presence in Afghanistan."

They reiterated the "demand for the immediate, total and unconditional withdrawal of all Soviet troops stationed on the territory of Afghanistan" and reaffirmed "respect for the inalienable national right of the people of Afghanistan to determine their own form of government and choose their economic, political and social system free from outside interference or coercion."

The foreign ministers strongly urged "the creation of the right conditions that would permit the early return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland in security and honour."

They appealed "to all states and peoples to provide assistance in order to alleviate the sufferings of the Afghan refugees."

They decided to establish a committee comprising the foreign ministers of Iran and Pakistan and the secretary general of the organisation of the Islamic Conference "to seek ways and means, including appropriate consultations as well as the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations or otherwise, for a comprehensive solution of the grave crisis with respect to Afghanistan..."

Hours after the conference set up the committee to deal with the Afghan crisis, one of its members said it was willing to go to Moscow and Kabul for talks.

However, Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh said the committee would travel to the Soviet capital only after receiving an official invitation. His statement indicated an early approach.

Israel decides to expand six Jewish settlements

TEL AVIV, May 22 (Agencies)—The Israeli government decided today to expand six existing Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, government sources said.

The decision was taken by a special ministerial committee set up 10 days ago to look into the land problems of eight settlements. The committee was charged with finding a way for the settlements to be enlarged without expropriating private Arab land.

Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon who chaired the committee told Israel Radio today that six of the settlements could be enlarged by adding state land and land whose ownership was unknown or unproved.

Two additional settlements, the suburb of Kiryat Arba outside Hebron and Ofra could not be expanded in this way and alternative solutions would have to be found for them. Mr. Sharon said "This can only be seen as a temporary solution to the land problems of Jewish settlements. We need to change the legal status of the settlements so that we can expropriate private land for them," he said.

The ultra-nationalist Gush Emunim (Faith Bloc) movement whose members live in the eight settlements tonight condemned the committee's decision.

Gush Emunim sources said the committee's solution was inadequate for the needs of Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Only legislation that would permit the expropriation of all land for Jewish settlements can assure our future in these areas," one Gush Emunim leader said. "We will fight this decision and continue our struggle for the law to be changed."

Last November, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that the government could not seize private land unless it could prove that the expropriation was necessary for Israel's defence.

Rome police charge Libyan with attempting to murder compatriot

ROME, May 22 (Agencies)—Rome police today charged a young Libyan with attempted murder and said he told them he had been sent from Tripoli to kill "an enemy of the people."

Mansour Mezaroni Belgazem was picked up outside the Al Andalus restaurant last night minutes after a gunman fired three pistols shots at the proprietor, Mr. Salem Mohammad Fezzani, a naturalised Italian who has lived in Rome since 1959.

"I was sent by the (Libyan) people to kill him. He is a traitor and enemy of the people," Mr. Belgazem, 25, told police.

The intended victim was unhurt. He said Mr. Belgazem had two accomplices who escaped.

It was the second attack in 24 hours against Rome's frightened Libyan community. A businessman was found strangled on Tuesday, the fourth Libyan exile killed here in the past three months.

Two Libyans have also been murdered in London and one each in Bonn, Beirut and Athens.

Police have linked all the killings with the campaign by Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi to force exiles to return home. Col. Qadhafi warned last month that those who failed to do so by June 10 would risk being eliminated.

The threat to strike down "enemies of the people" has been repeated by Libyan officials in several countries and has led to diplomatic protests.

This week, Italy's ambassador

to Tripoli was recalled for consultations about the apparently systematic murder campaign.

In Athens, police searched for the killers of a 23-year-old Libyan who was found with his throat slit in a city suburb yesterday.

The man, Abdul Rahman Abu Bakr, from Tripoli, was said to have been a former police or army officer. His body was found in his

locked small room in the suburb of Haidari near the furniture factory where he was working.

The Libyan arrived in Athens a few months ago. Neighbours told police he had refused to return to his country despite appeals from his mother who lives in Tripoli. The neighbours said he had often openly expressed himself against Col. Qadhafi.



The blanket-covered body of a young Libyan, found murdered in his apartment in Athens Wednesday, is carried out by policemen. The victim, who was almost decapitated by a sharp instrument, was said by the neighbours to have been opposed to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. (AP wirephoto)

Saudi insurance companies to be admitted to Arab federation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, May 22 -- Saudi insurance companies registered outside the Arab World became eligible to join the Arab Insurance Federation (AIF) today.

The decision to change the AIF bylaws by exempting Saudi companies only from the requirement that members be registered in the

Arab World was taken today at the final session of the 13th General Assembly of the federation convened here.

The Saudi interpretation of the Koran precludes the registration of insurance companies in the country, which has no insurance registration. However, some companies do operate there without legal sanctions. Many are registered outside the Arab

World.

Because of the special circumstances prevailing in Saudi Arabia and of its importance to the Arab insurance market, the board of directors of the federation decided unanimously that any Arab insurance company registered in a non-Arab country before May 19, 1980 which is operating in Saudi Arabia, has more than 51 per cent of its capital

owned by Saudi nationals and has Saudi nationals or persons appointed by Saudis forming a majority of its board of directors, is eligible for membership in the federation. The assembly advised Saudi companies registered in foreign countries to transfer their registration to Arab countries.

Founded in 1964, the AIF now has a membership of 100 insurance companies and eight reinsurance companies from 17 Arab

countries. Participants at this week's four-day assembly numbered 137. Almost an equal number of observers — coming from 19 non-Arab countries and two Arab ones — also attended the assembly.

It was decided that the 14th assembly will take place two years hence in Manama, Bahrain. Nineteen new insurance and reinsurance companies from eight Arab countries were committed today.

Mr. Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi from the Syrian Ministry of Economy was appointed secretary general of the federation, replacing Dr. Abdul Aziz Saqr of Syria, the acting secretary general.

AIF headquarters were moved from Cairo to Damascus last year, following Egypt's expulsion from the federation.

Mr. Ahmad Abdul Khaliq, chairman of the Jordan Insurance Association and director general of the Jordan Insurance Company, was appointed president of the federation until the next conference.

The federation also decided today to form technical permanent committees. The task of one of the most important of the nine committees is the unification of insurance conditions within the Arab World where countries now follow different European models for their insurance terms. The committee will also work on the Arabisation of insurance terms.

Two committees formed will deal with training in insurance and funds for research. This is closely related to a recommendation asking Arab governments to submit their views on the founding of the Arab Insurance Institute in Khartoum as proposed by the Arab League to the next meeting of the federation's secretariat in August of this year.

The other committees concern types of insurance in the following areas: life, fire, marine and aviation, engineering, car and general accident insurance and reinsurance.

The AIF voiced its satisfaction with cooperation between Arab and foreign insurance companies but encouraged more coordination between Arab companies. It suggested that they exchange knowhow among themselves and participate in a transfer of technology to other World countries.

It was also recommended that Arab governments try to more with Arab companies that they finalise arrangements for the Arab satellite launching it.

The secretariat of the federation was requested to prepare a comprehensive report on the subject to the assembly today, told the 108 insurance companies in session collected over \$3 premiums during 1978.

"They must formulate appropriate and homogenous strategy—capable of creating a true Arab market—in order to channel their cooperation in the international market."

He pointed out that cooperation with the international market is necessary because of the "capacity" needed to fast-growing and important market and because of the benefit from the professional experience of international insurance, he said, was to be a capacity for covering the Arab risks—"the premium which have attained to sums"—and to keep the minimum possible amount of claims within the Arab-Arab Cooperation also aims at taking measures for protecting Arab risks against asters.

A step towards cooperation in this area has been achieved past few years with the pools for the placement of marine, hull and aviation insurance. He recommended a pooling system, he said, include other risks.

He added that marine in the Gulf area "one of the most important occupations of the Arab companies" and that a union formulated on this basis must come about "constructive dialogue" between the Arab and international insurance markets.

PHOTOGRAPHY REVIEW

Poor materials don't make good photos

By Sara O'Neil
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, May 22 -- Judging by the proliferation of photographic studios in Amman, a casual visitor to the city might assume this is a sign of considerable general interest in photography as an art form.

Residents, unfortunately, know better: and the expense and limited availability of materials make life all the more difficult for those who choose to express themselves in this medium. Proof of these handicaps is all too evident in an exhibition of photographs now on show in the French Cultural Centre, where the winners of a competition sponsored by the centre in cooperation with Air France and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities have just been announced.

Despite the fact that a number of the pictures judged worthy of being displayed are excellent portraits of Jordan (the theme of the competition), the quality of printing and presentation often leaves a lot to be desired.

This is all the more irritating when some of the competitors are themselves owners of studios and should surely have access to better materials than the perpetual mitt finish for colour and, in the black and white section, dull grey tones with little contrast. The size of the photographs is often rather small, and stapling them onto pieces of cardboard does not add to their aesthetic appeal.

This is not to say that the exhibi-

tion is of no interest either to other photographers or to the layman: it is just that one cannot ignore these difficulties. Although the black and white section is somewhat disappointing, with only two entrants winning prizes—first prize winner Mr. Said Matar has a very fine portrait of a bedouin woman—some of the entrants in both the colour slide and print sections are very fine.

The French centre, with its usual flair for adding nice finishing touches, has erected a genuine bedouin tent brought all the way from Zarqa for the occasion. Here one can relax and sit and watch a continuous slide show (which unfortunately is not accompanied by any acknowledgment of who shot what).

Most of the prizewinners in this section appear to be French, with outstanding contributions from Mr. Roger Brechet, who is in charge of the teaching section at the centre. Subjects in the slide show tend to be historic sites, with Petra and its remarkable colours stealing the show.

Mr. Brechet also won in the print section, again with a set of scenes from Petra; but being French he graciously handed over his first prize (an air ticket to Paris) to second prize winner Mr. Ali Jabri, a local artist who contributed some interesting photographs of the south of the country which have an indigenous, sultry feel.

Third prize went to Mr. Fakhri Malkawi and fourth to Mr. Sarkis

Lepedjian, who has some beautiful scenes of a traditional nature—for example, an old woman smoking while sitting before a coffee pot, and women weaving wool carpets.

A reflection of Jordan from another angle—that of development—is one of the outstanding photos on show. Mr. Bill Lyons' view of plastic irrigation tunnels in the Jordan Valley. For some strange reason this photo did not win him a prize (his colour

print of Qasr Amra took sixth place).

Mr. Lyons is the only photographer to have used glossy paper. Moreover, he did not send his pictures abroad for printing; he prints his own—which makes one wish that some of the others had been a bit more adventurous, not only in their choice of subjects but also in materials used.

The exhibition can be seen during normal office hours until the end of the month.

Arab marine ecology council to be set up

AMMAN, May 22 (JNA)—A four-day conference on marine ecology today endorsed the establishment of a council to oversee and coordinate research in marine ecology in the Arab World.

Arab experts who participated in the conference which ended here today also recommended the creation of an Arab league organisation for the environment and referred the proposal to the Arab League secretary general. He will then bring it up at the forthcoming Arab summit conference to be held in Amman in November.

The task of the proposed council will be to promote research in marine life with a view to protecting the seas and to provide Arab states with information on marine resources in their region, a

conference source said.

He added that Arab states will have to coordinate their efforts and exchange expertise and information on marine life in the Red and Mediterranean Seas and the Aden and Arabian Gulfs if the council is to achieve its purpose.

In addition, the proposed council will try to solve problems connected with pollution of the seas, help develop educational programmes on marine life, circulate its findings to all member states and launch cooperation programmes in marine ecology with international organisations.

The conference was organised by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation in cooperation with Yarmouk University.

Post Office Savings Fund has come a long way

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, May 22—The Post Office Savings Fund has come a long way since it opened with eight branches in September 1974. While it attracted JD 100,000 in reserves within its first year of operation, today it has deposits of more than JD 3.5 million and 200 branches in all parts of the country. A total of 70,000 current accounts are now opened with the fund.

As director general of the Savings Fund since it began, Mr. Abdullah Hawamdeh speaks confidently of the Fund's growth. "Progress has been slow but steady these past six years, reflecting the realities of our situation. Because we deal with small investors, it has taken time to promote the idea among them that money kept in their pockets does not contribute to their future well-being nor to the development of their country."

"From the beginning, our main objective has been to reach lower income people in an effort to teach them how to save and the benefits of savings," Mr. Hawamdeh said. Students comprise the largest group of depositors, with 32 per cent of the accounts. Private and government employees make up another 20 per cent of the total.

Soldiers and public security personnel have 10 per cent of the accounts, housewives 8 per cent, children under five years of age (accounts opened by parents) 8 per cent, labourers 7 per cent and farmers 1 per cent. The remaining 14 per cent are not yet categorised.

Although the idea of a post office savings fund is not new to the Arab World—Egypt has had one since the turn of the century—the POSF is an unusual entity in Jordan. Legislation passed in 1963 paved the way for its establishment in 1974 after a delay of eleven years. It was originally planned to fall within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of National Economy.

Guaranteed by the government, the fund was set up as an autonomous office operating through the Ministry of Communications. It receives an annual budget of JD 60,000 to cover the salaries of its 37 employees, the rent of its headquarters building in Jabal Luweibdeh and other expenses. This financial support, to be discontinued in a few years, has kept customer deposits free for investment in the economic and social development of Jordan.

"Citizens with JD 200 don't really have a chance individually to participate in national investment opportunities," explained Mr. Hawamdeh. "But when so many of them choose to open accounts with the Post Office Savings Fund, they become small investors in the country's development through the fund's activities."

Operating expenses are kept at a minimum because each branch is located in a post office. Mr. Hawamdeh said.

"We continually weigh the inputs. In doing this, we recognise and appreciate the help of the staff of each post office where a branch is located. We therefore hope that

within a few years we can begin to compensate post office workers for the services they provide to the fund and its customers."

During the first years of operation, relations between post office personnel and the savings fund were strained because of the extra work load the employees were being asked to carry without remuneration. Today Mr. Hawamdeh feels that relations are greatly improved. "The Fund has always operated through the Ministry of Communications. Within the scope of this cooperation, we have an agreement with the ministry for the training of all post office staff in the handling of deposit and withdrawal procedures for the fund."

"In the beginning, it was not an easy situation because it was new to them. Now our relations are very good. It has become a smooth operation," he added, "even though everything is still done by hand."

The fact that copies of all transactions must be carried to the main office and then processed manually is a big problem for employees of the fund. Plans for upgrading services include the installation of a computer and a telex system, which would greatly facilitate the work of the fund and coordination among its 200 branches.

"If we had a computer, we would not have been computing in April interest on accounts up until last December," Mr. Hawamdeh said. "The present situation of using pocket calculators and manually checking and rechecking account records is far too time-consuming for our small staff."

Cost has been the obstacle thus far to putting a computer into service. "Our plans are to share a computer, on a financial basis, with other offices of the Ministry of Communications. This would put it within our reach much sooner," the director general said.

The convenience of customers is of primary concern to the fund. A certain amount of cash is always kept at each branch in a safe belonging to the ministry to ensure withdrawal services for customers no matter where they are in the kingdom.

"At present we have to depend on telephone connections between branches when a depositor wants to make a withdrawal from a location other than where the original transaction was made," explained Mr. Hawamdeh. "Unfortunately, this can take time. The proposed telex link, now being studied by the Telecommunications Corporation, will greatly facilitate customer service."



Small depositors put their hard earned cash in the Post Office Savings Fund.

To encourage customers and new accounts, recent measures have included an increase in the annual interest rate to 6½ per cent from January 1980. It is hoped that this will encourage depositors to keep their money in accounts for longer periods of time—say seven to ten years—to earn greater returns for them.

"One of our biggest problems has been customers making short-term deposits—like in today and out tomorrow," said Mr. Hawamdeh. "Long-term deposits are needed if we are to fulfill another of our main objectives: that of helping to establish and perpetuate development projects in Jordan by distributing investments where needed."

Investment decisions are made by the fund's board of directors. With the minister of communications serving as chairman, the board is composed of six members representing the Ministry of Communications (in the person of the under-secretary), the Ministry of Finance, the National Planning Council, the Central Bank and the Post Office Savings Fund itself in the person of the director general.

According to Mr. Hawamdeh, investments are distributed among projects in such a manner that the fund's customers are protected against loss or delay in returns. Money placed in each investment is covered by other investments. In addition to holding shares in 22 companies valued at JD 2.75 million, the Savings Fund also holds JD 1.4 million in government bonds. Another half a

million dinars is kept in local banks, mainly the Housing Bank, for liquidity purposes.

The fund's largest investment is in the Arab Potash Company (APC), in which it has a JD 400,000 stake. Other big investments have been made in the phosphate, cement and fertiliser industries and the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company.

Agricultural investments include JD 100,000 in dairy production, while another JD 100,000 has been earmarked for the poultry industry.

Tourism has also drawn investments. Shares are held in the Marriott Hotel in Amman, and the fund is participating with the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel and the Pension Fund in the construction of the Amman Commercial Centre. This centre, to be opened in 1981 adjacent to the hotel, will include a cinema, theatre and tower restaurant within its ultra-modern facade.

The Savings Fund was a founding member—with the Pension Fund and the Housing Bank—of a special company set up a few months ago to transform the Zarqa Ma'in hot springs south-west of Amman into a modern tourist attraction. Mr. Hawamdeh is chairman of the founding group.

Within two months, 60 per cent of this company's shares will be put on the market in order to meet the financial requirements of this ambitious development plan. It is envisaged that the site of these sulphur hot springs will become one of Jordan's biggest tourist attractions, as well as proving

popular with medical patients.

Foremost among the fund's plans for expanding services is the granting of small loans based on social needs. "Small loans of less than JD 2,000 or so are needed for such purposes as education, marriage, the building of a small house, home extensions, and the purchase of home furnishings," Mr. Hawamdeh pointed out.

Also in line with its efforts to attract more depositors is the recently inaugurated twice-annual draw or lottery open to all who have accounts containing a minimum balance of JD 10. Cash prizes amounting to JD 12,000 are to be given away each year. First prize at each draw is JD 1,000 in cash, with 99 other prizes being offered each time. The next draw, scheduled to take place on June 1, will be the fourth since the lottery began in June 1979.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	296.50/298.50
U.K. sterling	695.00/696.60
West German mark	165.60/166.60
Swiss franc	178.10/179.20
French franc	71.10/71.50
Italian lire	(for every 100)
Japanese yen	35.20/35.40
(for every 100)	132.00/132.80
Dutch guilder	150.90/151.80
Swedish crown	70.50/70.90
Belgian franc	103.20/103.80

GUEST EDITORIAL

Blown bridges

THE MISERABLE end of the Palestinian "autonomy" talks between Israel and Egypt surprised no one. Not only the talks, but the Camp David agreements from which they proceeded, were doomed from the start. President Sadat, however, and for reasons of his own, chose to follow this road to the bitter end. He now finds himself in the position he must have dreaded most: his "peace process" is in ruins; the bridges with the rest of the Arab world are well and truly blown. There is no way out either forward or backward.

The reasons for the collapse of the process are obvious. The main one is that Israel is simply not interested in a peace which makes it yield back the occupied territories. And this reflected itself in a negotiating position so arrogant and disruptive that the wonder is why the talks have not collapsed much earlier. The last manifestation of this was the starting of the process of the ratification of the law which will provide for the final absorption of Arab Jerusalem into Israel, as well as the publication of the plans for a vastly expanded settlement building programme on the West Bank.

As if to make it even more awkward for Sadat, Israel timed its two moves to coincide with Sadat's revocation of his decision to suspend the talks, causing him to change his mind once more. The Egyptian president could have spared himself a great deal of embarrassment had he but sat down to review the records of the talks so far. He would have seen that Israel is quite impervious to his rather naive manoeuvres and that it will go on colonising the West Bank whether he stays in the talks or not.

There was bitter irony also in the stand taken by the Americans over all this. Their view of Sadat's first decision to withdraw from the talks was that it was an exaggerated reaction, as if they did not know from first hand how the Israelis left him no alternative. U.S. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie went even better. Muskie is already giving himself vice-regal airs when dealing with the Middle East. He said that Sadat in fact wants to continue with the talks, whatever he says now.

The expectations are that Sadat's position will collapse once more, under the combined pressure from the United States and Israel. After all, this is the pattern up to now. His new decision to suspend participation is, in any case, formulated in such a way as to leave the door open for a comeback.

--From Arab News, Jeddah

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: Crude oil prices have been increased by a further two dollars a barrel. The announced reason for this increase is to arrive at a unified price among the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

It is not difficult to remember that the same reason was used to justify previous rapid increases. Nobody knows whether it will be possible to achieve the desired unified price.

The non-oil producing Arab countries continue to suffer from the rise in oil prices and the consequent increase in prices of goods from industrialised nations. It is high time that the Arab oil producing countries realise this fact and respond to the call by non-oil producing Arab countries to sell them oil at preferential prices.

Their response should emanate from a belief in joint Arab responsibility. This requires that Arab countries deal with each other in a way to help them build their indigenous strength and confront the threats to their cause and future whether they are oil producing countries or not.

AL DUSTOUR: The recent condemnation of the United Nations Security Council of Israel and Israel's refusal to allow the return of the three Palestinian exiles to their homes further highlights Israel's challenge to the international will.

The Security Council's decision is also a condemnation of the United States which intentionally abstained from voting on the resolution. This shows the studied vagueness of the American administration which is known for its opposition to Palestinian rights. Rights which are already recognised by the rest of the world.

The contradictory U.S. position may have misled some people in the course of their political and diplomatic statements that the U.S. position is only too clear when it comes to their actual behaviour at the Security Council.

The United Nations has failed to compel Israel to implement the Security Council's resolutions and has proved incapable of breaking through the Zionist defiance. The responsibility for this falls on the United States which has hindered any resolution to impose sanctions on Israel and to force it to yield to international will on Palestinian rights.

TODAY'S WEATHER

It will be fine with some low clouds. The wind will be north-easterly moderate. In Aqaba winds will be northerly fresh with alm seas.

	Overnight	Daytime
Amman	13	26
Aqaba	21	34
Deserts	15	30
Jordan Valley	19	32

WHAT'S GOING ON

Poster and Painting Exhibition

The Jordanian Artists' Association presents an exhibition of posters and paintings about Palestine. The exhibition is open 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and from 4-7 p.m. at the Artists' Association Exhibition Hall, across the street from the French Cultural Centre in Jabal Luweibdeh.

Photography Exhibition

An exhibition of photography of Jordan sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in cooperation with the French Cultural Centre and Air France, is open during office hours at the French Centre.

Academic Fair

An academic fair featuring student exhibits on a variety of subjects is being held at the American Community School near the Royal Automobile Club on Fifth Circle. The exhibition is open to public during school hours.

Show jumping competition

The Royal Riding Club will hold a show jump competition today at 4 p.m. The public is welcome to come and watch; entry is free. It will be held at the Marka Royal Racing Club.

هكذا من الأصل

Jordan Weekly Calendar

(Week of May 23 - May 29)

EXHIBITIONS

CONTINUING: The Jordanian Artists' Association presents an exhibition of posters and paintings about Palestine. The exhibition is open 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. at the Artists' Association Exhibition Hall, across the street from the French Cultural Centre on Jabal Luweibdeh, and will run through May 25.

CONTINUING: An exhibition of photographs of Jordan sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, in cooperation with the French Cultural Centre and Air France, will run through May 30 at the French Cultural Centre on Jabal Luweibdeh.

FRIDAY, May 23: An academic fair featuring exhibits on a variety of subjects opens at the American Community School, next to the Royal Automobile Club on Eighth Circle and will run through May 27. The exhibition is open to the public during school hours.

SATURDAY, May 24: The Ministry of Social Development, in collaboration with the Queen Alia Society for hearing impaired children, presents an arts and crafts exhibition by the students of the Queen Alia Centre. The exhibition will open at 4 p.m. at the Haya Arts Centre in Shmeisani. Visiting hours are 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m. The exhibition will last until May 26.

SATURDAY, May 24: The Goethe Institute, in cooperation with the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Jordan (Department of Physics) presents an exhibition entitled "The Utilisation of Solar Energy. A Task for the Future". The exhibition, organised by the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations in Stuttgart, is open as of 10 a.m. daily and will run until May 31.



A multi-media poster by Mohammad Sha'han dedicated to Palestinian resistance and commemorating May 15 (32nd anniversary of the founding of Israel).

WEDNESDAY, May 28: The British Council presents a one-day exhibition entitled "British Architecture for Arts and Leisure". Photographs and plans with seventeen contemporary examples will be on display.

LECTURE

MONDAY, May 26: The Goethe Institute, in cooperation with the Friends of Archaeology, presents a lecture by Swedish scholar Lars Wahlin, who will talk about the usage of land between Salt and River Zarga during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Dr. Wahlin has been studying human geography in Jordan. The lecture will be given at 6:30 p.m.

FILMS

TUESDAY, May 27: The Goethe Institute presents a film by Michael Haneke based on a novel by Ingeborg Bachmann entitled "Drei Wege Zum See" (1976) starring Ursula Schut, Guido Wieland, Walter Schmidinger, Bernhard Wicki and Yves Beneyton. The film, subtitled in English, starts at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, May 27 and WEDNESDAY, May 28: A feature-length film tribute to America's oldest and most distinguished ballet company, the American Ballet Theatre, will be shown in the American Centre's auditorium. Entitled "A Closeup in Time", the film focuses on the company's famous ballets, including "Rodeo", "The River", "Les Sylphides" and "Pillar of Fire". The film is in colour.



An oil painting by Tawfiq Al Sayyed entitled "Yearly sacrifice" (1980).

Pat-pourri

Prepared for the Jordan Times by Pat McDonnell in Damascus

THERE ARE always an impressive number of parties when an ambassador takes leave of his post, but the round of farewell fetes for Indian Ambassador A.P. Venkateswaran and his wife Usha was down-right exhausting.

Ambassador Venkateswaran left for Switzerland where he will be India's permanent representative at the United Nations in Geneva. Since coming to Damascus in October 1977, Ambassador Venkateswaran has proved to be an energetic and effective diplomat. The latest accomplishment of his service was an atomic energy cooperation agreement signed May 1 between India and Syria. In April of 1978, President Hafez Al Assad visited India—the first such visit made by a Syrian president to India in 21 years.

Among the numerous scientific and trade agreements implemented since Ambassador Venkateswaran came to Syria was the inauguration of a weekly flight to Bombay by Syrian Airlines—Syrian Air also has a weekly flight to Delhi from Damascus. An impressive number of teaching and cultural exchange programmes was put into action. Foremost of the latter was a major collection of contemporary Indian art which came to Damascus in October '78; this will be reciprocated next November when 100 paintings by Syrian artists will be exhibited in New Delhi.

An avid supporter of the arts, Ambassador Venkateswaran brought numerous Indian dance troupes to

Syria and his talented wife gave three different classical Indian dancing recitals to benefit Syrian orphanages. A pet project of the Venkateswarans was the Martyrs' School, an institution for war orphans, and each year on India's national Child's Day, they organised an entertainment programme at the school.

Despite a heavy load of diplomatic duties, the enthusiastic ambassador learned Arabic while in Syria and he plans to continue his lessons using taped cassettes in Geneva. After receiving a master's degree in economics at Madras University, he completed studies in international law at Balliol College, Oxford University. He filled posts in Czechoslovakia, New York and Ethiopia before serving as counsellor at the Indian embassies in Moscow and Bonn. After teaching one year at Harvard University's Centre for International Affairs, he was deputy chief of mission at the Indian embassy in Washington, D.C.

EXCAVATIONS for the 1980 season at Ras Basit, north of Latakia, began this month under the direction of Prof. Paul Coubin of the Higher Studies Institute, Paris. Prof. Coubin has excavated the site each year since 1972; his objective is to identify it as the ancient city of Poseidon mentioned by Greek historians. To date, his investigations show the site flourished as a Greek outpost in the 8th and 7th cen-

turies B.C. and again during the classical Greek phase of the 6th through 4th centuries B.C. It also was occupied during Roman and Byzantine eras.

TOURING EUROPE with 50 wood sculptures for exhibitions in Rome, Paris and Madrid are Butros and Lutfi Runheim, brothers from Suweyda who have gained local fame as sculptors in the medium of olive wood.

A NEW PHASE of archaeological endeavours has begun at Rusafa, the famed glistening city of stone on the Euphrates. The West Germans have excavated Byzantine monuments there since 1959, but this year, under Dr. Thilo Ulbert of the Archaeological Institute of Berlin, they started to clear an Arabic structure outside the city wall known as the House of Al Mondauros which dates to the early sixth century A.D.

Mondauros was the last Ghassanid "phylarch" (local ruler attached to the Byzantine empire) at Rusafa. The Ghassanids were an Arab tribe allied with the Byzantine emperor to control the Syrian desert. Mondauros' name is inscribed in the apse of the building, which is believed to have been a reception hall rather than his residence. The structure is in an excellent state of preservation, with the ceilings intact except for the roofing in the centre portion.

The Syrian Department of Antiquities has proposed

that the Germans clear the structure and restore it to its original function—as a reception hall for visitors to Rusafa. A focal point of the project is to demonstrate Arab contributions to the ancient metropolis of Rusafa. This season's work has ended for the Germans who completed their excavation of the main cathedral known as Basilica A.

GOOD NEWS for art collectors living in Syria is that a new gallery has opened. The gallery is located on the second floor of the Adham Ismail Art Centre on Shahbandar Square. It is equipped to display 30 to 40 paintings which will feature the works of students of the centre.

The current exhibit, a one-man show by 35-year-old Marwan Battash, is worth seeing. It presents 40 watercolours by the government employee-student.

The art centre and gallery are under the auspices of the Syrian Ministry of Culture. Four different six-month courses are offered at the centre in painting, water colour, pencil, engraving and sculpture. The centre might be called a Syrian equivalent of adult education in that its students are nearly all adults who have jobs and pursue training in art as an avocation.

Future exhibits will include a display of works by children who are offered a three-month course in the summer. Last year, 91 children, aged 4 to 14, attended. Information on the summer session for children may be obtained from the Ministry of Culture.

West Bank English paper offers bold coverage of life under occupation

By Sara O'Neill
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, May 19 -- Thirteen years after the Israeli forces moved in to occupy the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Palestinians there finally have a chance to voice their opinions directly, in English, to a foreign audience hitherto kept largely in the dark as to the living conditions and the feelings of the indigenous population.

With the launching at the end of last month of an eight page English language Sunday newspaper, *Al Fajr* (The Dawn)—a sister paper of the Arabic daily bearing the same name—the monopoly on news coverage in English in the occupied territories, so long held by the Israeli *Jerusalem Post*, has finally been broken.

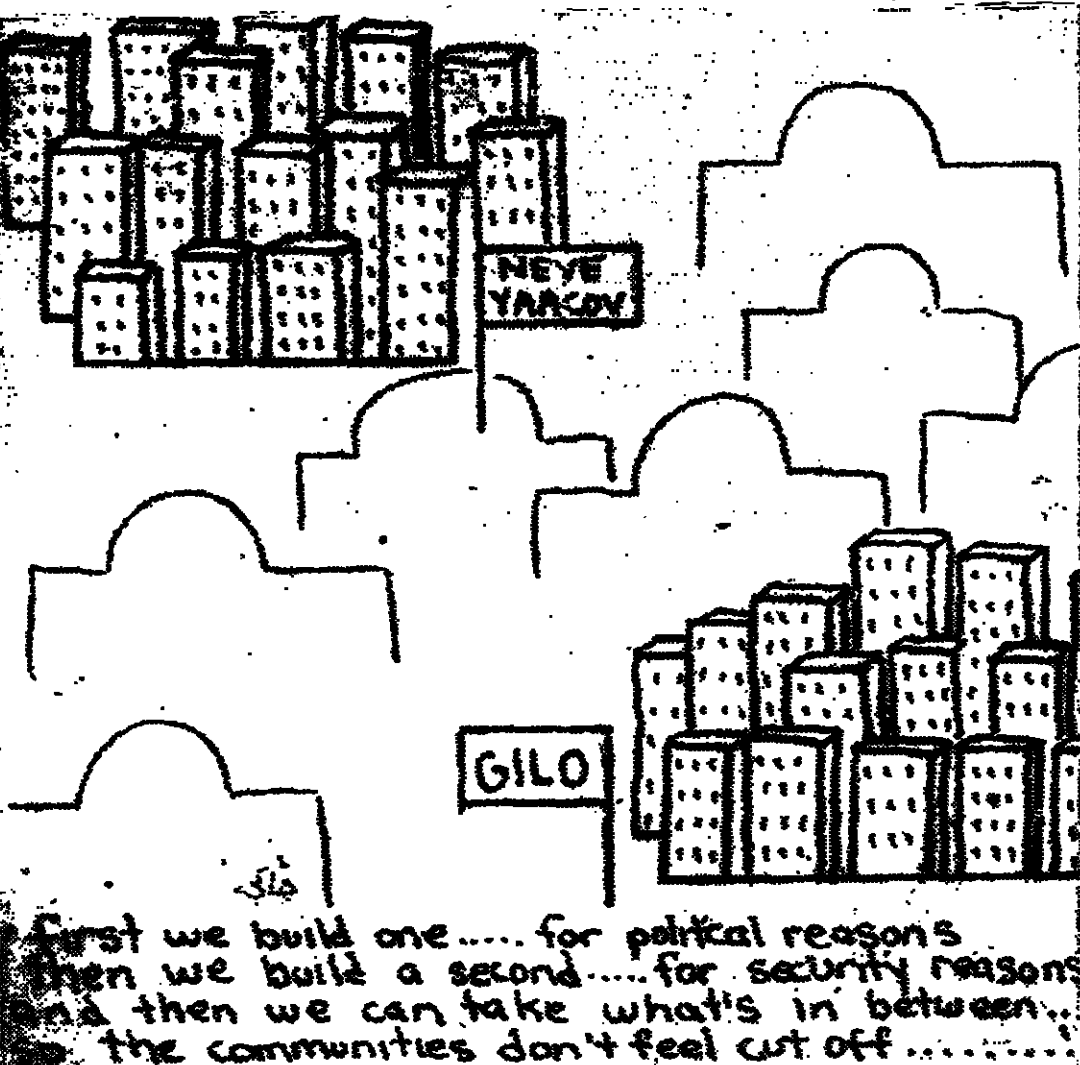
Al Fajr first appeared on the newstands in Jerusalem on April 23 as three high level Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegations were touring European Common Market countries explaining a plan to solve the Palestinian problem. In this first issue, a picture of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, small enough not to upset the Israeli press censor yet prominently placed at the top of page one, accompanied a news item on Mr. Arafat's call for an independent European initiative based on the recognition of Palestinian rights to self-determination and political independence.

The diplomatic activities of the PLO are not new to newsmen throughout most of the world these days, but in a country where foreigners are daily treated to such statements as "the so-called Palestine Liberation Organisation is an army of misguided murderers perpetrating death and destruction all over the world in order to gain your attention" (to quote from an article in a weekly magazine "Tourists' Jerusalem" entitled "Do you support genocide... without realising it?") the mere existence of pro-PLO headlines takes on considerable significance.

In fact the entire front page of the first issue presents a powerful condemnation of the Israeli occupation, with a host of brief items on such repressive measures as a curfew imposed on an entire village (Deir Al 'Asal, near Hebron) following the stoning of armed Israeli robbers by Arab residents. Another article reported the refusal of the Israeli authorities to allow a number of mayors to visit Amman to discuss the recent Israeli decision to cancel municipal elections in the West Bank. A headline "Prisoner Day -- A support for Palestinian detainees" was splashed in bold letters across the centre right of the page. On the inside pages, there were reports about the latest evictions of Arab families from the Jewish quarter of the Old City, the confiscation of vast areas of Arab land to make way for settlements, and the closure of Abu Dis College.

In view of the harsh Israeli censorship of the Arabic press, how has *Al Fajr* managed to print so many articles taking up the outlawed PLO position, bearing in mind that a much broader readership can be reached in English than in Arabic?

Even *Al Fajr's* editor, Mr. Hanna Siniora, expressed some surprise that the picture of Mr. Arafat was allowed to go through. Nobody actually knows how the censors will react since there are no clear cut rules. Every item is closely scrutinised prior to going to press and returned with one of four seals marked on the proofs: "go ahead and publish", "amend", "postpone" or "cancel"—which although written in Hebrew, come in different colours for easy identification. According to the whim of the censor, any-



Cartoon accompanying an editorial by Managing Editor Elias Zanani on the cancellation of West Bank municipal elections.

thing from nationalist poetry to innocuous discussions may be branded "cancel".

Presumably, in the case of *Al Fajr*, the Israeli authorities wish to impress the "democratic" nature of their regime on their foreign visitors. At the same time, clamping down on the paper's distribution outside the Arab areas is a very effective alternative measure to outright censorship.

The *Jerusalem Post* has a daily circulation of more than 30,000 and the special weekend edition about 45,000. The weekly international edition sells more than 50,000 copies in 90 countries, principally the United States. Although Mr. Siniora has no such ambitious plans for *Al Fajr*, there certainly exists an untapped potential audience of many more than the disappointingly low 2,000 who bought the first issue. Mr. Siniora attributes the initially low sales figures chiefly to distribution problems, which mean that *Al Fajr* has so far only been sold in Arab bookshops, mostly in East Jerusalem. The major distributors in West Jerusalem, not surprisingly, declined to sell it, although there is an increasing minority of Israelis -- the bulk of whom form the Peace Now movement -- who support the Palestinian demand for their own state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. A handful of these have even gone so far as to contribute to *Al Fajr*; one of the leading articles on the centre "opinion" pages entitled "My life with the Palestinians" is by an Israeli intellectual, Gideon Weigert.

Of the 2,000 first-time readers, the majority were thought to be local West Bank intellectuals and students as well as a number of Peace Now members who came over to East Jerusalem to buy copies. Once distribution improves, helped by a growing awareness of the paper's existence during the coming months, Mr. Siniora hopes for an eventual circulation figure of around 10,000 for the home market alone. There is also the potentially large market for overseas readers, such as Palestinian expatriates in the U.S. and Europe who could be served by long term subscriptions.

For the moment, however, the editor's chief concern is to improve the standard of the newspaper. An apology for the paper's many typographical and grammatical errors and an appeal for readers to "be patient and bear with us" appears on the same page as an invitation to all readers, regardless of their views, to contribute to the paper, thus underlining *Al Fajr's* moderate political stand as well as its weak point -- lack of staff.

It was only "with a little help from our friends" that the paper could be put out at all, Mr. Siniora stressed. Produced on a shoestring budget, the paper's very limited paid staff consists of a managing editor, Mr. Elias Zanani, one full-time reporter, a proof reader and a translator -- the rest are all volunteers. For technical facilities and many of the local news items the paper relies on its sister paper, the Arabic *Al Fajr*, reports from various *Al Fajr* correspondents stationed in major West Bank towns and in Washington are translated into English. In contrast with the generally high journalistic standard of articles contributed by volunteers, the style of these translated articles is rather weak. Mr. Siniora is looking for a good rewrite man to solve the problem and hopes, as the market for the paper increases, to be able to employ a larger staff.

In the meantime, *Al Fajr* is being sustained quite successfully by the enthusiastic response from its literally inclined supporters, whether Arab, Jew or foreign resident. One of the paper's largest advertisements, which takes up a quarter of a page, was placed in the form of a resolution by the U.S.-based Middle East Peace Action Coalition (which includes the Palestine Human Rights Campaign and Jesse Jackson's Operation Push) condemning U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Mr. Neil Catford, an English lecturer at Birzeit University, and Mr. David Adams, the student son of Mr. Michael Adams, editor of the London magazine *Middle East International*, both contributed fine feature articles. Mr. Catford's

long and interesting interview with the since deported Mayor of Hebron, Mr. Fakh Qawasm, serves as an unintentional tribute to a dedicated, peace-loving man who one learns spent his four years in office "quietly transforming the face of Hebron, establishing schools and a polytechnic. Mr. Adams' article also serves as a tribute to another man, Mr. Musa 'Alami, Jerusalem lawyer and former Palestine government advocate-general during the British Mandate, whose Arab Development Society, founded in 1945, set about cultivating what was then considered the uncultivable Jordan Valley. Under the title "Miracle in the Desert -- A precedent for Palestinian resettlement," Mr. Adams admirably portrays the rise and sad decline (following the 1967 occupation) of Mr. 'Alami's project whose main achievement has been to train Palestinian farmers, artisans and orphans both vocationally and academically.

Although *Al Fajr* cannot hope to compete with the *Jerusalem Post* in the case of the ordinary tourist with no particular political inclinations, an attempt has been made to appeal to such an audience on page seven, which is headed "Ahlan wa Sahlan". "Meet the Palestinians" presents individual Palestinian citizens and their problems such as a Tulkarm carpenter who states that high Israeli taxation is driving many small manufacturers out of business. Of more interest to the inquisitive visitor as well as local residents is the section devoted to education and culture, in particular the university forum in which students are encouraged to write poetry and short prose items.

Al Fajr's policy of aiming at a mixed market will obviously undergo a good deal of refinement as time goes by. As one of the staff said: "We are feeling our way through. We are not sure yet which market is the most important". However it develops, given the will and ability of the paper's growing number of supporters, readers can only look forward to future issues with great interest.

Local News Briefs

AMMAN, May 22 (JNA) -- The visiting Iraqi delegation on education called on the under-secretary of the ministry of education Mr. Thihni Ra'fat today to discuss a number of education issues. The delegation was briefed on the ministry's programmes for developing the Jordanian educational system. The delegation later visited the Hotel Training Institute where they inspected its programmes and training courses.

AMMAN, May 22 (JT) -- Travel across the two bridges spanning the River Jordan returned to normal today, according to a spokesman for the Public Security Directorate. He said the two bridges had been closed during the past two days to allow for repair work.

AMMAN, May 22 (JNA) -- Twenty eight incidents took place in the country on Wednesday out of which there were four car accidents resulting in the injury of five people, a public security source reported. There were also three fires due to carelessness in using gas, three poisoning cases resulting in the death of one person and a drowning incident leading to the death of a child.

IRBID, May 22 (JNA) -- The department of education in Irbid has allocated JD 230,000 for the building of two secondary schools for boys and girls in the city. The schools are expected to be completed within the next few months and each will contain 36 classrooms in addition to a library and an administration wing, a department spokesman said. He added that at present the department of education is building a comprehensive school at which girls will receive academic, nursing, dress making and handicraft training at secondary

level.

AMMAN, May 22 (JNA) -- The ministry of industry and trade today granted licences for 15 new industrial companies to open in Jordan with a total investment capital of JD 3.15 million. The new firms will manufacture medicine, glassware, paint brushes, dairy and plastic products, distilled water, tissue paper, gravel for construction and cement pipes. It is expected that nearly 950 people will be employed in the new firms.

AMMAN, May 22 (JT) -- Icecream vans which do not have proper licences will be confiscated by the authorities and their owners fined, according to an order by the governor of Amman Mr. Yahya Al Musli. According to the order owners of such vans must obtain licences from Amman municipality to sell icecream in Amman streets after the vans have been inspected for good sanitary conditions. The municipality has to date granted licences to 10 vans and defined their positions around the capital.

IRBID, May 22 (JNA) -- A seminar on teaching English in the first four elementary classes was held at Yarmouk University this evening. Organised by Yarmouk University in cooperation with the department of education in Irbid, the seminar was designed to evaluate the results of teaching English to a total of 32 selected classes in government and private schools in Irbid and Al Husn. The audience heard views on modern methods of teaching the language and watched children from the "test" classes read and pronounce the words in good English. Dr. Ibrahim Hatamleh from Yarmouk University prepared and supervised the seminar which was attended by several education officials, university teachers and students.

Nigeria raises oil prices

NEW YORK, May 22 (Agencies) — Nigeria today became the last of the major oil exporting nations to raise its crude oil prices in the energy price spiral, according to an authoritative American journal.

Petroleum Intelligence Weekly said Nigeria raised all its grades of crude oil by \$2 a barrel, effective today. This would put its highest quality crude at about \$36 a barrel.

When Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, raised its prices by \$2 a barrel on May 14, it was quickly followed by Indonesia, Algeria, the Libyan Jamahiriya, and then all the Gulf producers except Iran. Iran, whose prices are already at the top of the OPEC range, said earlier today it was not going to raise them further at the moment.

Nigeria is the second largest supplier of crude oil to the U.S. Last year it shipped about 1 million barrels a day to the United States. In New York, a spokesman for Mobil Corp., a major customer of Nigeria, said Mobil had not been notified of the increase.

Analysts expect the price hikes will boost retail prices of gasoline and home heating oil in the United States by as much as 3 cents a gallon.

Venezuela, the third-largest supplier to the United States, boosted the price of its oil by as

much as \$3.50 dollars a barrel, leaving its highest quality oil at \$34.25.

The Nigerian price rise immediately raised the question whether Britain would follow suit by increasing the price of its North Sea oil. Officials of U.S. companies said the Nigerian increase would probably be followed by a rise in British North Sea oil, now at \$34 and customarily aligned with similar quality Nigerian crude.

There was no official indication in London as yet over whether Britain will push up its oil price.

Meanwhile, the dollar recovered slightly on European foreign exchange markets today and the pound sterling fell back from its high points of yesterday. Dealers said the markets were cautiously reassessing the position after the pound's rise yesterday to its highest level against the dollar since last July.

The Bank of England was also believed to have intervened on the markets to prevent any rise in the pound from getting out of control, but there was no official confirmation of this.

Some operators were taking profits from the pound's increase in value, an increase which was boosted by world oil price rises that highlighted Britain's North Sea oil wealth, and by currently high British interest rates.

Economic News Brief

Chase cuts prime interest rate to 15.5%

NEW YORK, May 22 (AP)—Chase Manhattan Bank cut its prime rate today from 16.5 to 15.5 per cent, pushing the prime to its lowest level in months. Bankers Trust Company quickly matched the new rate.

Although most banks are currently quoting a prime rate of 16.5 per cent, analysts said they expect the lower rate to spread throughout the banking industry soon. Morgan Guaranty Trust Company on Monday lowered its prime to 16 per cent but no other major banks followed.

The prime—the interest rate banks charge on loans to their most credit-worthy corporate customers—peaked at 20 per cent in early April and has since been on the decline. The prime is considered a key indicator of trends in all kinds of interest rates because when the prime changes, most other rates do also.

Analysts attribute the recent declines in the prime rate to two main factors—drops in the demand for business loans and declines in open-market interest rates that affect banks' cost of gathering funds.

Business loan demand has been falling for several weeks, in part due to a slowdown in the U.S. economy. In addition, many businesses are bypassing the banks to find lower rates in the commercial paper market.

Iran severs dollar-rial linkage

TEHRAN, May 22 (R) — Iran today formally broke the link between its currency and the dollar and set the rial at 92.3 per Special Drawing Right (SDR). The move, announced by Central Bank Governor Ali Reza Nobari on Sunday but not effective until today, meant the rial was weakened slightly to 70.50/70.75 per U.S. dollar from the fixed rate of 70.35/70.60 which has been

operative since 1978.

From now on the central bank will announce rates for the rial daily against the dollar and 14 other major trading currencies, based on the fixed SDR/rial rate and the rates for the SDR announced daily by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The SDR is a basket of 16 international currencies, established by the IMF.

Egypt, Morocco, Yemen get \$151m credits

WASHINGTON, May 22 (AP)—Egypt will receive a \$50 million credit for a gas distribution project in Cairo and a \$50 million loan for a pulp and paper project.

Announcing this today the World Bank said a \$50 million credit from the International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank, will help finance a project for distributing gas to Cairo from the Abu Gharadig field, south of Al Alamein. A \$50 million World Bank loan will help create two companies to take over the assets of two of the largest pulp and paper companies in Egypt which should result in increased production and a better product.

It was also announced that Morocco would receive \$34 million to help finance a rural development project. The World Bank said some 40,000 farmers—mostly small farmers—will benefit from the project which covers some 36,000 hectares of farmland and forests in the Loukkos basin.

IDA has also approved a credit of \$17 million to the Yemen Arab Republic for a pilot fisheries development project. It said the project will help the country to exploit its fish and shrimp resources for domestic consumption.

A \$29 million credit was also approved for a fertilizer industry rehabilitation project in Bangladesh. IDA said the project is designed to increase fertilizer production at three operating plants.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATE

LONDON, May 23 (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at the London foreign exchange and bullion markets today.

One sterling	2.3285/3300.	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1614/17	Canadian dollar
	1.7895/7905	West German mark
	1.9660/75	Dutch guilders
	1.6615/35	Swiss francs
	28.65/67	Belgian francs
	4.1575/1600	French francs
	840.00/50	Italian lire
	224.00/20	Japanese yen
	4.2045/55	Swedish crowns
	4.8895/8915	Norwegian crowns
	5.5705/15	Danish Crowns
One ounce of gold	503.00/505.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

ICI ended a net 10p down at 364. Its first quarter profits were line with expectations but the company said profit margins narrowing and trading conditions have become difficult. GKN fell to 244 from 258 after the chairman said first half profit will fall substantially. Other engineering eased in sympathy.

Boots and Debenhams were both narrowly higher after trading statements. Elsewhere, Shell, Birmah, Ultramar, Thorn and Lucas lost ground.

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Olympic boycott faltering as deadline draws near

MOSCOW, May 22 (Agencies) -- The Soviet Union's main sports newspaper declared today that the U.S.-spearheaded drive to boycott this summer's Olympic has failed.

"The sports public of the planet has come out in defence of Olympic ideals, in support of the Olympic movement," said a commentary in the daily *Sovetsky Sport*, published two days before the deadline for submission of Olympic entries.

However, it asserted that in some countries whose national Olympic committees have come out against the boycott, heavy financial pressure is still being exerted in an effort to reduce the number of athletes going to Moscow.

U.S. President Jimmy Carter launched the boycott campaign in January as a protest against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. But in Western Europe, West Germany is the only major country which has joined in the drive to stay away from Moscow.

Writing in *Sovetsky Sport*, commentator Vladimir Geskin said: "Even now, some days before the deadline for submitting applications, one can say with confidence: the anti-Olympic campaign launched by reactionary circles across the ocean has suffered a failure."

In Lausanne, Switzerland, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said today it would announce next Tuesday the official list of countries which have entered for the Moscow Olympic Games in the face of the American-led boycott.

The closing date for entries is Saturday. The IOC has asked the Soviet games organisers to give full details on participating countries and sports in which they will compete as soon as possible after that date.

In West Germany, resentment and bitterness are reported growing among sports figures against President Carter's boycott now that most major European nations have decided to attend the games.

Despite predictions that West Germany's decision in favour of the boycott would influence other European nations, no country on the continent has followed the German lead.

Norway and Liechtenstein had already decided in favour of the boycott before the Germans took their decision May 15 during a meeting of the National Olympic Committee in Dusseldorf.

Since then Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden and Japan have agreed to send teams to the games.

"Now we are the Olympic dummies," proclaimed a Bonn afternoon newspaper.

In response to the lack of European support for the boycott, a group of German athletes, led by gold medal sprinter Miss Annegret Richter, have urged the committee to reverse its decision before Saturday's deadline for accepting bids.

N.Y.'s Love Canal area in state of emergency

WASHINGTON, May 22 (AP) -- President Jimmy Carter declared a state of emergency for New York State's Love Canal area yesterday and said the federal government will pay to evacuate 710 families while it conducts new studies on the health dangers posed by 21,000 tons of abandoned chemical wastes.

Officials said the voluntary evacuation would begin immediately in the region, which is near Niagara Falls on the U.S.-Canadian border.

The government response, however, falls short of the permanent relocation Love Canal residents have been demanding.

Japan's opposition leader 'ready to form a government'

TOKYO, May 22 (R) -- The leader of the major opposition Japanese Socialist Party (JSP) said today he was ready to shelve the party's policy of unarmed neutrality to form a coalition government.

Mr. Ichio Aikawa told the party's central committee there was a fair chance of combined opposition forces winning a majority in parliamentary elections on June 22.

"Our avowed policy of unarmed neutrality will not and should not prevent us from forming a coalition government with other opposition parties," he said. A JSP-sponsored no-confidence motion toppled Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira's administration last Friday and forced him to call a general election.

But no committee meeting has been scheduled, and with the deadline for accepting only two days away, it appears unlikely that the decision will be reversed. "The government made a mistake," commented committee President Willi Daume in an interview with *Quick* magazine. "Now we are isolated in Europe."

But Mr. Daume saved his strongest language for President Carter, who promoted the boycott as a response to the Soviet incursion last December into Afghanistan.

"In all of history there has not been so much amateurism and bad planning as in the course of the last months," Mr. Daume was quoted as saying. "I will not speak of strategy."

The German also accused Mr. Carter of acting "from emotion" and of failing to consider the consequences of the boycott.

Quoting the secretary of the Tanzania Olympic Committee, Mr. Erasto Zambi, the paper said the confirmation letter was sent to the Olympic organising committee in Moscow last Tuesday through the Soviet embassy here.

Mr. Zambi told the paper Tanzania's team would consist of 20 athletes, eight boxers, eight officials and three members of the youth camp.

The Japan Olympic Committee (JOC), while putting off a final decision on the boycott issue, moved today toward participation in the Moscow Games with a sharply reduced delegation.

JOC Chairman Mr. Katsuji Shibata told a general meeting of the committee that under present conditions sending Japan's planned delegation of 246 was "impossible."

S. Africa student riots continue

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, May 22 (AP) -- Police reinforcements headed for this central city today after police opened fire on rioting black students who hijacked a military truck and began burning and stoning other vehicles, police said.

A police spokesman said police who chased the hijacked army vehicle fired when they were

China mounts crash law education effort

PEKING, May 22 (AP) -- China has begun a crash course to meet its growing need for lawyers, the official Xinhua News Agency reported today.

The Ministry of Justice is giving a five-month course to 200 judicial workers who once were

He asked each of the 22 athletic federations in the IOC to limit their teams to those athletes with a good chance of capturing a medal.

The IOC will meet with the federations Friday to discuss team sizes and open another general assembly on Saturday, to make a final decision.

Mr. Shibata said that reducing the size of the teams was necessary because the Japanese government, which strongly endorses the boycott, has threatened to cut off all funding.

He also said the government will not allow public office workers or members of the self defence force, Japan's military, to go to Moscow as participants.

However, when asked if the JOC planned to participate, even with a reduced delegation, Mr. Shibata said: "That is correct."

The Turkish government urged its national Olympic committee today to boycott the Moscow Games.

A statement issued after a routine cabinet meeting said Soviet forces that invaded Afghanistan last December had shown no intention of pulling out.

The committee is to announce tomorrow its decision on whether to send a team to Moscow.

Meanwhile, in London, an Afghan sportsman who competed in the 1936 Berlin Olympics today appealed to the world's athletes to boycott this year's Moscow Olympics.

Mr. M.F. Shan, vice-captain of the Afghanistan Olympic hockey team in 1936, said: "We are now aware that our playing in 1936 in the Berlin Olympic Games was a great historical mistake, because we thus contributed to the glory of the bloodthirsty Nazi regime."

China in the grip of 'college fever'

By Victoria Graham

PEKING -- Kao Bu Shang yearned to go to college. Although she was a slow thinker, she studied painfully until midnight. She bought self-help books with her pocket money. She never watched television.

Last April 11 Kao Bu Shang drank poison and died.

Kao Bu Shang -- a pseudonym which means "failed to pass the exam" -- was one of about 4.6 million young Chinese who will take the national college entrance exams July 7-9. They are competing for about 300,000 places and regard college as their ticket to a better life.

China currently has one million college students.

After the havoc of the anti-intellectual Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, college entrance exams were reintroduced in 1977. The competition is ferocious.

Pressure, self-imposed and from parents and friends, is almost more than some can endure. China's sports newspaper commented last February that an increasing number of students were failing their college physical and impairing their health by fanatical studying.

For a few, like Kao Bu Shang, the pressure was intolerable. Her case was revealed May 10 in the Shanghai *Wen Hui Bao* in a letter from her parents, who confessed they were guilty of exerting cruel pressure and tormenting their

jurors, prosecutors or lawyers, the agency said. It said they will either serve as lawyers themselves or help train more lawyers.

A new criminal law allowing certain rights for persons accused of crimes was passed last summer, requiring a great expansion in legal training for prosecutors and defense lawyers.

Xinhua said the emergency course includes training in courtroom procedure, rules of evidence, China's constitution, the civil and criminal codes and laws regarding China's burgeoning trade with foreign countries.

After a lapse of 10 years, Chinese universities began enrolling law students again in 1978, Xinhua said. It said this year's enrollment will total 2,400 -- almost as many as in the peak year of 1956 and up from 2,017 last year.

In 1957, it said, China had 2,800 lawyers and more than 800 legal advisory offices. But a campaign against rights criticised the criminals' right to defence and in the ensuing chill, many lawyers shifted to other work. The 1966-76 decade of rule by the Communist Party's radicals severely crippled China's higher education in general.

Xinhua said China now has about 200 legal advisory offices.

Husak re-elected Czechoslovakia's president

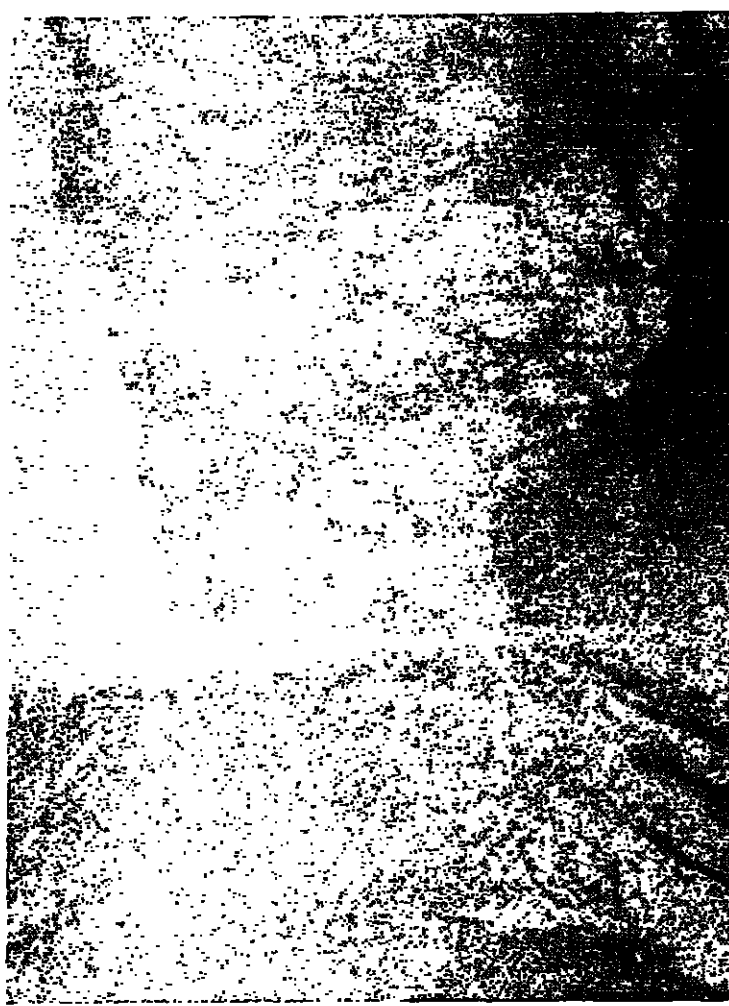
PRAGUE, May 22 (AP) -- Mr. Gustav Husak, 67, today was unanimously reelected to a second five-year term as president of Czechoslovakia.

He was the only candidate.

The election by members of the two chambers of Parliament took place in the Gothic Vladislav Hall of Hradcany Castle, where presidential elections have traditionally been held.

Mr. Husak, who is also Communist Party chief, was proposed on Tuesday as candidate of the party's Central Committee. The proposal also was adopted by the National Front, the Communist-led mass organisation, a day later.

Mr. Husak has been president since 1975, when he replaced ailing President Ludvik Svoboda.



Mount St. Helens erupts Sunday.

Volcano eruption U.S.'s 'most devastating disaster'

VANCOUVER, Washington, May 22 (Agencies) -- A chance of rain dampened the prospects for a search for survivors of the Mount St. Helens volcano today, but rain was welcomed in the communities to the east that have been nearly shut down as ash from the volcano lay down a gritty blanket up to seven inches (18 centimetres) deep.

Officials in eastern Washington issued emergency orders to prevent new health hazards from the material spewed out in the blast that killed 14 people, laid waste to thousands of acres of pristine forest and sent tons of mud and debris slithering down into rivers.

President Jimmy Carter, after being briefed at the site, said the eruption was "the most devastating disaster the nation has suffered."

The missing list from Sunday's eruption -- an explosion estimated at 2,500 times as powerful as the World War II atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan -- stood at 90 today.

President Carter arrived last night to assess the devastation. Washington State has been declared a major disaster area.

But the president was told hopes were growing that a 200-foot (60-metre) high dam formed by a mud flow across Spirit Lake, near the volcano, might not break.

Officials said earlier they feared the dam might give way and send a wall of water rushing toward 60,000 residents of two towns.

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Fighting continues in Kwangju South Korea's new premie broadcasts appeal for order

KWANGJU, South Korea, May 22 (R) -- Newly-appointed Prime Minister Park Chung-hee today appealed to heavily armed militants controlling this city of Kwangju to return to their homes and jobs.

Mr. Park toured the area by helicopter on the second day of his premiership and in a radio broadcast said the people should make "no more mistakes causing disorder, destruction and casualties."

Gunfire rattled across Kwangju throughout the night as the rebels sought to dislodge government soldiers from buildings in the city centre. Army helicopters were fired on by militants, who are seeking an end to martial law. The rebels are equipped with thousands of weapons taken from the police. Local residents said at least 38 civilians have been killed in the Kwangju uprising.

Local leaders of the insurrection have expressed no confidence in Prime Minister Park, a former lieutenant of assassinated President Park Chung-hee.

He served during President Park's 18-year autocratic rule as deputy prime minister for two years and, as a retired air force general, has strong military sympathies.

Violence has spread to 16 towns in the southwestern province of Cholla, according to the military authorities.

In the town of Mokpo, 65 kilometres southwest of Kwangju, the authorities said police posts were attacked and riot police were evacuated by the maritime police in boats. In Kwangju six residents and two students, representing the 200,000 militants who seized the city, opened negotiations with martial law authorities in a suburb.

Among their demands were the

immediate withdrawal of the ring of troops encircling the city and full compensation for alleged atrocities by paratroopers of the special forces.

After his radio broadcast, Mr. Park issued a statement saying the Kwangju rioting, which began Monday, was instigated and led by "impure elements and mobs" and calling on citizens to return to their homes and jobs.

"Nothing can be solved through rioting and violence," Mr. Park said.

Still later he appeared briefly on

national television to plea for order, warning Korea faces a "grave and continuing unrest, not harmful to people's life but to the nation's economy."

Mr. Park said he felt action was improving and have a solution in the future. He closed Kwangju between officials and representatives of local citizens, as improvement in the situation reached in the morning.

World New Briefs

PARIS, May 22 (AP) -- A reporter from Radio France International's state-owned overseas radio service, was expelled Yugoslavia last night, 24 hours after his arrival in Zagreb, work said today. It said Mr. Michel Barthelemy had met Vlado Gotovac, a philosopher, and Mr. Franjo Tudjman, a politician, both Croats who are considered hostile to the regime. Mr. Barthelemy was put on a plane for Paris after his bags were searched and tapes of all his interviews seized, the said.

TOKYO, May 22 (AP) -- The 10,224-ton Liberian-registered tanker "Zenith Glory" sank today after colliding with a West container ship in the sea of Japan, but all 28 crewmen aboard were rescued, the Maritime Safety Agency said.

IMPERIAL BEACH, California, May 22 (AP) -- A training exercise "hostages held by terrorists" will bring a force of Marines and five helicopters to the beachfront here next week. A political figure will be kidnapped and held by terrorists in a mock rescue Wednesday at Imperial Beach, San Diego, Marine officials said.

200 Soviet troops said killed in 2-week Afghanistan offensives

NEW DELHI, May 22 (R) -- Reliable reports reaching here today said at least 200 Soviet troops were believed to have been killed during a two-week Soviet offensive southwest of Kabul.

The reports also said the offen-

sive appeared to be over, but they did not say whether it had been successful.

Estimates of Soviet casualties varied widely, according to the reports, but the number of dead was believed to have been in the

low hundreds. Rebel forces are believed to have been because of heavy bomb reports said.

They said only Soviet were seen in the area, where they were present in small numbers.

Other reliable reports, fresh anti-Soviet demonstrations in Kabul yesterday and before which ended in clashes with Afghan police, unconfirmed reports that schoolgirls and three police were killed on Tuesday.

Reports said firebombs turned on students chanting Soviet slogans. They said at Kabul University one home yesterday after one exploded and several were found nearby.

Travellers reaching New recently said 56 people, including 36 schoolgirls, were killed in week-long demonstrations against the Soviet army presence in Afghanistan.

Reliable reports from said President Babrak Karm believed to have ordered arrest of militiamen responsible for last month's shooting.

IEA ministers agree on plan for emergency energy action

PARIS, May 22 (R) -- The International Energy Agency (IEA) prepared today for swift emergency action to prevent a scramble for scarce oil by consumer countries in the event of a supply crisis, informed sources said.

Energy ministers of the 21-nation agency discussed plans to meet at short notice to deal with any threat of tight market conditions caused, for example, by an interruption of exports from a major producing country.

The IEA conference considered the implications of a new round of price increases by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members and a sharply reduced forecast by the IEA for OPEC oil production up to 1985.

Agency sources said the United States was expected to press for a substantial reduction in the IEA import goal for 1975, which now stands at 26.2 million barrels a day.

The sources said IEA experts believed imports would turn out to be as much as four million

barrels a day below the target, according to latest indications.

Common Market Energy Commissioner Guido Brunner told the conference consumer countries must respond to the new round of oil price increases by agreeing a precise policy of energy saving. Otherwise the situation would get out of hand.

Mr. Brunner added: "Absolute priority must go to ensuring greater certainty of supply. If this succeeds, we could perhaps absorb a gradual price increase as long as there were no drastic and sudden fluctuations."

Conference sources said the ministers were expected to agree that the share of oil in total energy demand could be cut from 52 per cent at present to about 40 per cent by 1990.

This was the figure agreed by the Common Market energy ministers for the nine-nation community on May 13 at a meeting in Brussels.

China in the grip of 'college fever'

child with unfair expectations. Their names were withheld.

The letter has prompted a stream of sympathy from parents, teachers and students and warnings that higher education is not the be-all and end-all in today's China. Failure should not mean disgrace, they say.

"We have spent sleepless nights," Kao Bu Shang's parents wrote. "We would like to tell more parents not to exert spiritual pressure on their children, but to help them to prepare to be admitted to

college or to be employed."

They explained Kao's mother had been a child labourer at 11 and her father was orphaned. "We would like to have our daughter study hard so that she might have a bright future," they said.

So they put tremendous pressure on their 17-year-old middle school student, although her mental faculties were impaired by an operation years ago.

"I thought we meant well by her," her parents wrote. "But the result proved the opposite."

It is not known how many hard-pressed students have resorted to suicide. But the case illuminates one of the human problems of a developing nation trying desperately to surge ahead.

The pressure today is reminiscent of the age of classical Chinese exams which were indeed the only passport to success. In traditional China, scholars were the elite.

The public's thirst for knowledge and craving for success today are stark contrasts to the tumultuous, anti-intellectual Cul-

tural Revolution of 1966-76 that time discipline was anathema; politics, not knowledge, was the only yardstick. Student heroes were the rebels.

Tests and the entrance examinations were discarded. Schools were closed and some universities are only now reopening.

Today, the stampede for education has become so intense that last fall several hundred students marched down Peking's main avenue. Raising their hands and chanting "We want to go to school," they complained they had passed their exams but scores still were not good enough. Dismally they sat in at the Peking City Hall on Sept. 10.

At that time, Peking newspapers and "Democracy Wall" were full of laments about students who didn't get into college. Many lost precious years during the Cultural Revolution and didn't catch up.

"Please save our children. We have no hope," complained a poster.

One mother who marched down the street said, "I can't bear to see our children go home in tears. Night after night they do not sleep; they have more hopes and dreams."

Although applicants can take the tests again, parents worry they will become disillusioned, sit idly at home, drift around, and into mischief or commit crime. Thousands who failed the exam last year still are waiting for word.



Last autumn several hundred students demonstrated in Peking protesting against the difficulty of getting into college in China. (Gamma photo)

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